

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA
BUTTE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MICHAEL ROBERT LEE,

Defendant.

CR 21–34–BU–DLC

ORDER

Before the Court is United States Magistrate Judge Kathleen L. DeSoto’s Findings & Recommendation Concerning Plea. (Doc. 71.) Because neither party objected, they are not entitled to *de novo* review. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); *United States v. Reyna-Tapia*, 328 F.3d 1114, 1121 (9th Cir. 2003). Therefore, the Court reviews the Findings and Recommendation for clear error. *McDonnell Douglas Corp. v. Commodore Bus. Mach., Inc.*, 656 F.2d 1309, 1313 (9th Cir. 1981). Clear error exists if the Court is left with a “definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been committed.” *United States v. Syrax*, 235 F.3d 422, 427 (9th Cir. 2000).

Lee is charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846 (Count I), and one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) (Count II), as set forth in the Indictment. (Doc. 1.) Judge

DeSoto recommends that this Court accept Lee's guilty plea as to Count II after Lee appeared before her pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11.

The Court finds no clear error in Judge DeSoto's Findings and Recommendation and adopts them in full, including the recommendation to defer acceptance of the Plea Agreement until sentencing when the Court will have reviewed the Plea Agreement and Presentence Investigation Report. In light of the United States' motion for preliminary order of forfeiture (Doc. 72), the Court will address the issue of forfeiture by separate order.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that Judge DeSoto's Findings and Recommendation (Doc. 71) is ADOPTED in full.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Lee's motion to change plea (Doc. 54) is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Lee is adjudged guilty as charged in Count II of the Indictment.

DATED this 13th day of September, 2022.



Dana L. Christensen, District Judge
United States District Court